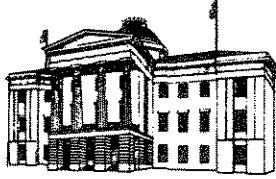


State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 122
REPLACING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 74
CONCERNING CREATION OF A PROGRAM OFFICE, A POLICY BOARD,
AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES, TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE NATURAL
RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN THE
ALBEMARLE-PAMLICO ESTUARINE SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program (APNEP), formerly known as the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study, is a cooperative effort established by the State of North Carolina and the United States Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the APNEP is to identify, restore, and protect the significant resources in the Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine system in North Carolina and southeast Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the APNEP is a collaborative effort involving state, federal, regional, local, educational, and public entities in the protection and enhancement of the Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine system; and

WHEREAS, Congress designated the Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine system as an "estuary of national significance" in 1987; and

WHEREAS, the APNEP was the first National Estuary Program to be designated under Section 320 of the Clean Water Act; and

WHEREAS, the APNEP has provided extensive information and supported scientific research about natural resource and environmental issues facing the Albemarle-Pamlico estuary since 1987; and

WHEREAS, scientific information from the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study was combined with extraordinary involvement by citizens to develop a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) entitled "A Guide to Environmental and Economic Stewardship in the Albemarle-Pamlico Region" that was adopted in 1994; and

WHEREAS, the CCMP also recognizes that, from an ecological and economic standpoint, the most effective means to ensure the environmental health and sustainability of the